

Serial No.: 10/509,155
Docket No.: 28953.7272

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of manufacturing a cordierite porous body comprising providing cordierite forming materials comprising an Al source, an Si source, and an Mg source, and firing the materials to form cordierite, wherein the Al source and the Si source are at least partially provided by inorganic micro balloons containing Al_2O_3 and SiO_2 , wherein a moisture content of the inorganic micro balloons is less than 0.1% by mass or less and wherein the Si source and Al source comprise more than 90% by mass of the micro balloons.

2. (Previously Presented) The method of manufacturing a cordierite porous body according to claim 1, wherein a crush strength of the inorganic micro balloons, measured by a micro compression tester, is 1 MPa or more.

3. (Previously Presented) The method of manufacturing a cordierite porous body according to claim 1, wherein a moisture content of the inorganic micro balloons is 0.08% by mass or less.

4. (Previously Presented) The method of manufacturing a cordierite porous body according to claim 1, wherein the inorganic micro balloons are obtained by calcining at 300°C or more.

5. (Canceled).

6. (Previously Presented) The method of manufacturing a cordierite porous body according to claim 1, wherein a content of a sodium compound and a potassium compound